



April 14, 2014

Honorable United States Senator Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Representative John Garamendi
2438 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Feinstein and Representative Garamendi:

On behalf of the Dutra Museum Foundation, I am writing in support of pending federal legislation S.228 (Feinstein) and H.R. 1004 (Garamendi) – *The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area Establishment Act*. The Foundation recognizes a Delta National Heritage Area (NHA) as a valuable tool to assist with public education, and a way to attract more visitors to the Delta's historical sites which could have economic benefits and help to preserve and protect the Delta's unique sense of place.

The Dutra family has been involved in the dredging business since 1904, and levee maintenance by the Dutra Group continues to play a vital role in protecting the Delta's rich farmland from flooding. The Dutra Museum of Dredging in Rio Vista contains a private collection of materials that interpret the history of side-draft clamshell dredging in the Delta. Items in our collection include historic photographs, log books, maps, antique tools and artifacts, scale models of dredges and more.

We believe that a Delta NHA can assist our mission of educating and promoting an understanding of the history of dredging, the value of developing and reclaiming the California Delta and the significant role the Dutra Group and the Dutra family have played within this field. We appreciate that one of the proposed themes for the Delta NHA is about Delta reclamation and discusses the important role that the side-draft clamshell dredge played not just in the Delta, but in other parts of the world as well.

The Delta NHA is an approach to heritage preservation that is driven by the local community, and therefore public-private partnerships are crucial to support historic preservation and education projects. If Delta NHA designation does occur, the Dutra Museum Foundation could potentially serve as partners with the Delta Protection Commission on projects related to preservation and interpretation of the

history of Delta dredging. Depending on the availability of Foundation members, we could offer technical and advisory assistance on projects related to the promotion and marketing of sites related to dredging history and the development of educational materials about the topic.

Once again, the Dutra Museum supports pending federal legislation *S.228* (Feinstein) and *H.R. 1004* (Garamendi) to designate the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta as a National Heritage Area. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet Bennett". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly legible.

Janet Bennett

Co-Director

cc: Erik Vink, Delta Protection Commission